



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)

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Office of the Assistant Managing Director

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October 30, 2013

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2300,
New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Director General:

The Management of Forestry Development Authority (FDA) extends complement and wish to officially send the the attached original copy of the completed format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Kind regards

Sincerely yours

Kederick F. Johnson
Acting Managing Director

Country/Organization: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Date of Submission: October 29, 2013

**UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests
Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
July 2013**

1. According to the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in 2015 will be “Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests (IAF).” At this session, the Forum will review the effectiveness of the IAF and decide on its future.¹
2. In preparation for UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made a number of decisions during the last fourteen years.² Most recently, Member States through Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10 decided to undertake several intersessional activities to ensure UNFF11 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make a decision on the future of the IAF.
3. One of the three components of the intersessional activities on the IAF, as outlined in Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10, is to solicit views from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. Specifically, the Resolution invites countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations, other relevant organizations, relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to submit views and proposals to the Forum’s Secretariat on the six key issues set out in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, and the full range of options on the future international arrangement on forests. The UNFF Secretariat should provide the compilation of these views and proposals to the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG1) on the IAF³.
4. This format has been prepared by the Forum’s Secretariat to facilitate submission of the inputs on the IAF to AHEG1. The electronic version of this format is available at: (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/docs/Views-on-IAF.doc>). Member States and other relevant stakeholders are invited to download this format and use it to submit their views and proposals in English. The explanation in each box should not exceed 150 words. Member States and other stakeholders are kindly requested to submit the original copy of the completed format in word processing software, with a scanned copy of the official letter from their respective organization/ministry/mission, via email to: unff@un.org, with copy to Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi at: moeini-meybodi@un.org, and Ms. Thida Sam at: sam2@un.org. All inputs should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by **30 October 2013**.

¹ Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42), please see:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement>

² ECOSOC Resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42) and Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and its annex (E/2013/42)

³ OP 5 and 6 of Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and paragraph 2 of its annex- Please see:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/321/90/PDF/N1332190.pdf?OpenElement>

**Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013**

Ministry / Organization: Forestry Development Authority

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- Strengthening of the current IAF
- Continuation of the current IAF
- Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The UNFF approach to ensuring that member countries and partners are involved in decisions pertaining to the core functions is a measure of success of the Forum.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49⁴:

UNFF has encouraged a continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21. The UNFF is also striving to bring together member countries and partners to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner,

⁴ Please see these documents at:

- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:
The future options on the "Legally Binding Instrument on all types of Forest" for the UNFF is one of the best solution for the future of Sustainable Forest Management in the world

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:
Enhancing of cooperation and coordination on forest related policy amongst member countries and partners. It is also development guiding tool for enhancing cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments..

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:
The Country-Led Initiative are important taking success story and lessons learned from the implemetation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests pilot project in my county.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:
The engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF is at an appreciable level. However, the UNFF needs to provide adequate support to member states with vast forest cover and even with those possessing less portion of forest cover.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:
The International Year of Forests and International Day of Forests are providing an impact through awareness and also encouraging the policy makers to understand the important of forest in the national development agenda, improving livelihood opportunities of the forest dwelling communities.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- Adequate
- Inadequate
- Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

The progress can be improved by constituting a trained SFM Team in each member state and assign them with tasks that can be monitored, evaluated and reported upon on a quarterly or biannual basis.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF2:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF3:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF4:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Eventhough there are legal and policy framework put in place to ensure sustainable forest management and achieve Global Objectives on Forests, the financial support to the implementation of these policies is slow from all levels. The provision of technical and financial assistance is the best way possible.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

. It has offered adequate education to many forest dwellers and strengthened collaborative working relationship between indigenous people and the state on sustainable Forest management and knowledge sharing.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post 2015 UN development through the provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods, community empowerment through community structure development and strengthening; constant sensitization, education and awareness raising on sustainable Forest Management.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- Adequate
 Inadequate
 Not sure

Additional explanation:

The funding provided for participants to attend some of the Forum workshops , seminars and conferences is not adequate to facilitate the traveling and it becomes difficult for participants from countries in transitions to easily get access to fund to participate. . There is also need for the UN Secretariat to include two (2) participants from each member states to be represented at each call meeting. Meaning that one civil society organization personnel and one government representative should be invited to sit within each meeting.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

The member states and the financial groups should increase the budget of the UNFF Secretariat to improve the coordination. Moreover, Civil society organization personnel should be included to reflect equal and full representation of all groups (the state and indigenous people).

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Provision of technical and financial assistance to the Forum Secretariat.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

It might not be sufficient enough due to the short falls in the working of the UNFF. CPF has also helped to foster strong partnership between individual member organizations. In addition, two or more organizations have joined together to explore common ground and strengthen their impacts at the field level (Example: The UN-REDD Partnership);

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Is to continue dialogue and sharing of information through meetings. To educate forest dependents on the importance of promoting sustainable Forest Management, finding sustainable alternative livelihoods and empowering them through setting aside community forest for them to manage and own.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

Seek United Nation Security mandate to ensure that all member countries make a minimum contribution from their national budget to the financing .

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Continuous dialogue and meetings with member states through the UN mandate.